

From: lowilliams
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Litigation

Sirs

I have used computers since the sixties. I have worked with IBM operating systems, UNIX, DOS, and today use MICROSOFT Products. In the early days IBM tried to keep everything proprietary to their systems. For a number of years they were successful. For a while in the seventies the DOJ talked about breaking them up, fortunately nothing came of it. Then IBM became arrogant and figured that no one could ever compete with them. Their positions aided in the demise of Control Data and Univac. Then DEC came along with their smaller VAX but more capable systems using UNIX for technical computing. DEC greatly reduced IBM scientific computing business. Their place in the sun lasted until the mid eighties and then they in turn faced effective competition from HP. HP now holds a major part of the technical computing market. There were dozens of other companies that competed unsuccessfully for this market.

IBM created MICROSOFT when they decided the IBM Personal Computer was never going to become big business. They let Bill Gates write the operating system. There were other small computers based on the INTEL, ZLOG and MOTOROLA single chip processors that used several other operating systems. In the early PC days I used a Radio Shack Model 4 (Z-80 processor) with an operating system the name of which I can no longer recall. All this is just to show that companies come and companies go.

With free trade, MICROSOFT will probably be strongly challenged by an Indian or Chinese software firm some time in the next 20 years. The challenge will not come from AOL unless they spend their time and brain power in trying to make a better operating system, browser or what ever and beat MICROSOFT in the market place.

MICROSOFT has created and enforced order out of chaos to the benefit of all humanity. Take work processing as an example. Since the early eighties I have used:

"Run Off" a Digital Equipment product
"Scripsit" a Radio Shack Product
"Wolkswriter" a ? product
"Word Star" a ? product
"Word Perfect" a ? product
and "MS WORD"

With most of these other programs digital files were not compatible between computer systems or word processing programs. Today with MS WORD I wrote a book, with text and significant art, and sent it to my publisher in England in WORD format. The publisher can use it for the book without any conversion. From a users standpoint MICROSOFT products should be ubiquitous. One of the advantages the United states has over Europe and many parts of the world is the fact that 280 million of us speak about the same language. The world of personal computers should also speak one language and until the Indians or Chinese invent a better one, let it be MICROSOFT.

The current agreement reached by the DOJ and MICROSOFT is a good one and should be implemented. Further suits by AOL and the other states should be ignored as frivolous. the Judge should tell AOL to

compete on with better products rather than trying to get the government to restrain their competition.

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